



MCMC designed to equip officers ...

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Detailed story on Page 2

England thrash South Africa

After bowling out the Proteas for a paltry 69 in just 20.4 overs, England's openers Tammy Beaumont and Amy Jones made light work of the chase, cantering home in 14.1 overs.

— Story on Page 7

The Province

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Quote!



With faith, discipline and selfless devotion to duty, there is nothing worthwhile that you cannot achieve.

— Muhammad Ali Jinnah

News DIGEST

SHC suspends KU's cancellation of Justice Jahangiri's law degree

STAFF REPORTER



KARACHI: The Sindh High Court (SHC) has suspended University of Karachi's decision to cancel the degree of Islamabad High Court (IHC) judge Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri. A two-member bench led by Justice Muhammad

Iqbal Kalthoro heard the petition against the degree cancellation. Sindh Advocate General Jawad Dero, KU Registrar Professor Imran Siddiqui, and other officials were present at the hearing.

The registrar apprised the court that the university had received notice "only two days earlier" and requested time to file a reply.

The petitioner's counsel, Barrister Salahuddin, sought more time from the bench to respond while seeking cancellation of the varsity's order in the meantime.

"How much time do you need? If action is taken against the petitioner during this period, who will compensate for the loss? If the order is later reversed, who will be responsible? This involves a man's lifetime of work. Was notice even served to the affected party?" the bench asked the registrar. Siddiqui replied that he had been newly appointed as registrar and was unaware of the case history.

This irked the bench further. "If you are in court, you must provide answers. It may be that the action was driven by personal interest. Questions are being raised over his degree. Even if someone files a petition 30-35 years later, the affected person should be heard. We are not saying action cannot be taken, but a person's honour cannot be put at stake."

Justice Kalthoro added that judicial decisions passed without hearing both sides carried little weight. "Ex-parte judgments are not considered good judgments."

The bench suspended KU's notification and restrained the varsity from taking further action based on the Syndicate and Unfair Means Committee's recommendations. The next hearing is slated for October 24.



Islamabad: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding the country's economy, in Islamabad on Friday. — PHOTO: PID

Pak-Saudi defence pact could become Eastern Nato: Dar

"Defence pact with Saudi Arabia significant. More countries want to sign similar agreement with us," says Dar

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) Dar said that several Arab and Muslim nations have expressed their wish to sign such an agreement with Pakistan. The deputy prime minister was of the view that the pact could expand to include other countries, potentially transforming it into a "new Nato or Eastern Nato".

"By God's Will, Pakistan will lead 57 Islamic nations," he said. Recalling India's aggression against Pakistan in May, the deputy prime minister said that, under the defence pact, such strikes on Pakistan would have been

on either nation would be treated as an act of aggression against both.

Stressing the significance of the pact, DPM Dar said that several Arab and Muslim nations have expressed their wish to sign such an agreement with Pakistan.

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"By God's Will, Pakistan will lead 57 Islamic nations," he said.

Recalling India's aggression against Pakistan in May, the deputy prime minister said that, under the defence pact, such strikes on Pakistan would have been

considered as an attack on Saudi Arabia. "Trump's 20-point Gaza peace plan not ours"

During the speech, DPM Dar also said that the 20-point Gaza peace plan announced by US President Donald Trump was different from the draft proposed by the Muslim countries, including Pakistan.

"The 20-point [Gaza peace plan] made public by President Trump is truly not ours and changes have been made to our draft," he said.

Trump's peace plan includes a ceasefire, a swap of hostages held by Hamas for Palestinian prisoners in Israeli custody, a phased Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, Hamas disarmament, and the establish-

ment of a transitional government under an international body.

However, Pakistan has distanced itself from President Trump's plan, with DPM Dar previously clarifying that the proposal was not the one that contained all of Pakistan's suggestions.

While expressing his concerns on the Trump-led peace draft, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and former National Assembly speaker Asad Qaiser said that any agreement excluding the Palestinians would be rejected.

In his address during the NA session, the senior PTI leader regretted Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's endorsement of Trump's peace plan for Gaza.

Govt, action committee agree on draft deal

Agreement will be signed soon, says Iqbal; body formed to review implementation of demands

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal has said that a consensus has been reached with the Awami Action Committee (AAC) on an agreement, and both sides are currently reviewing the draft.

Speaking on Geo News programme 'Aaj Shahzeb Khanzada Kay Sath', the minister — a member of the government's negotiation committee — said that the agreement would be signed soon, terming it a victory for Pakistan, the people of Azad Kashmir, and democracy.

"A permanent committee has been constituted under the supervision of the Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Amir

Muqam," he said, adding that the committee will meet every 15 days to review the implementation of the demands.

Responding to a question regarding the action committee's demand to end reserved seats for refugees, Iqbal said that a committee of constitutional experts would be formed, which would review all aspects and make a decision.

"The decision taken after the review will be accepted by everyone," he said, adding that this was a constitutional matter and "there will be no haste in it."

His statement hours came after second round of negotiations between the awami action committee and a government-appointed negotiation team resumed in Muzaffarabad.

Security forces gun down seven India-sponsored terrorists in Sherani

ISPR says security forces conducted IBO on reported presence of terrorists belonging to Indian proxy

STAFF REPORTER

RAWALPINDI: Security forces have killed seven Indian sponsored terrorists in an intelligence-based operation (IBO) conducted in Sherani district of Balochistan, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement on Friday.

According to the military's media wing, the security forces conducted an IBO on the reported presence of terrorists belonging to the Indian proxy, Fitna al Khwarij or the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

"During the operation, own troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location, and after an intense fire exchange, seven Indian-sponsored terrorists were sent to

hell," the ISPR added.

"Weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered from the terrorists, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area," the communique further said.

Sanitisation operation was being conducted to eliminate any other Indian-sponsored terrorists found in the area, according to the military's media wing.

"The security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of Indian-sponsored terrorism from the country, and reaffirm the nation's unwavering resolve to bring the perpetrators of terrorism to justice," it added.

PM vows to defeat terrorism

ISLAMABAD: In a statement, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif lauded the security forces for killing 7 Indian-backed terrorists in Balochistan's district of herani. "We will uproot the monster of terrorism," he said in a handout issued by the PM Office. The premier went on to say that the government and the security forces were determined to completely eliminate terrorism from the country. "We will never allow elements aiming to harm Pakistan's integrity to succeed," he added. The recent operation comes days after terrorists carried out a suicide attack near the FC headquarters in the provincial capital of Balochistan, resulting in 11 fatalities.

CM KP meets delegation of 26th National Security and War Course participants

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR: A delegation of participants from the 26th National Security and War Course under the National Defence University visited the Chief Minister's House, Peshawar, on Friday and met with Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur. The meeting included discussions on a wide range of issues. The Acting IGP Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, along with officials from the Planning & Development and Finance Departments, were also present. The visitors were briefed on provincial government affairs, including administration, financial management, development programs, and law and order.

Speaking to the delegation, the Chief Minister said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is rich in resources, but unfortunately, past governments failed to ensure their effective utilization. "When we assumed office, the province faced severe financial

and security challenges. From day one, we adopted a model of economic self-reliance and invested significantly in sectors with strong potential," he remarked.

Gandapur said that through improved fiscal discipline, the provincial government has generated billions of rupees in additional revenue over the last 19 months. Highlighting KP's immense hydropower potential, he said the government is working to harness this energy for industrial development. A dedicated provincial transmission line is being laid to supply affordable electricity to industries, thereby creating new job opportunities. He added that the government is also focusing on utilizing the province's oil and gas reserves for industrial growth.

On tourism, the Chief Minister said the sector has vast potential to increase provincial revenue. Work is underway to develop integrated tourism zones of international standards. For rural employment, the government is prioritizing



livestock and agriculture, while for the first time, a Mountain Agriculture Policy has been introduced to boost farming in hilly regions.

Gandapur stressed that good governance, improved service delivery, reforms, and transparency remain top priorities. To this end, information and communication technology is being effectively utilized, with digitalization of 29 sectors already completed and more underway.

Answering a question on security, the Chief Minister said instability in Afghanistan continues to impact law and order in KP. "Our armed forces, police, and people have made enormous sacrifices to eliminate terrorism. We salute the martyrs who laid down their lives for peace. For a sustainable solution, negotiations with Afghanistan are necessary, and it is encouraging that the federal government has agreed with my proposal in

this regard."

On Afghan refugees, Gandapur said KP has hosted them for decades, but their repatriation is the federal government's policy. However, he emphasized that this process should be carried out with dignity.

Regarding the merged districts, the Chief Minister noted that promises made at the time of their merger with KP have not been fulfilled. He stressed the need for

a new NFC Award to ensure the province receives its due share for these districts.

Highlighting public welfare initiatives, Gandapur said that 100% of the province's population has been provided with Sehat Card health insurance for free medical treatment. Interest-free loans are being given to help people build homes, while a Rs. 14 billion program has been launched to support youth with business startups and technical training.

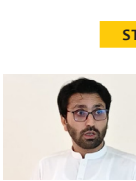
Muhammad Adil successfully defended his thesis



STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR: Mr. Muhammad Adil, M. Phil Scholar at department of Sociology has successfully defended his thesis under the supervision of Dr. Umar Daraz. The External Examiner was Dr. Ibrar Khan; Assistant Professor at the Department of Criminology, University of Peshawar. Congratulations to both the supervisor and the supervisee.

Taqweem successfully defended his PhD thesis



PESHAWAR: Taqweem Ul Haq, PhD Scholar in Department of Biotechnology, University of Malakand has successfully defended his PhD thesis under the supervision of Prof Dr Aftab Ali Shah, Department of Biotechnology, UoM. The External Examiners were Dr Ishtiaq Hassan, Associate Professor; Department of Biotechnology & Genetic Engineering, Hazara University Mansehra & Dr Kafel Ahmad, Associate Professor; Center of Biotechnology & Microbiology, University of Peshawar. The Chairperson, Department of Biotechnology, University of Malakand Prof Dr Syed Muhammad Jamal & Faculty Members Congratulated Dr Taqweem Ul Haq & Research Supervisor, Prof Dr Aftab Ali Shah for PhD Public Defense.

STAFF REPORTER

DC Kohat pays surprise visit to distract offices complex



Kohat: Deputy Commissioner Kohat Rahimullah Mehsud paid a surprise visit to the District Offices Complex today to review the staff attendance, inspect administrative performance and check service delivery to the public. During the visit, Mehsud moved through several offices, monitoring attendance registers and asking officials about day-to-day business. He also held direct conversations with the citizens who were present. Deputy Commissioner issued immediate instructions to the relevant departments on resolving grievances of the public and warned that unnecessary delays or negligence would not be tolerated. He stressed that citizens must be provided services in a timely and transparent manner. Mehsud said the administration's primary responsibility is to serve the public and called on officers to maintain regular attendance, follow government policies and ensure that services are delivered without obstruction. He noted that district offices form the first point of contact between the government and the community, making it essential for staff to treat citizens with dignity and respect. Our Correspondent

True identity of civilized society lies in cleanliness



OUR CORRESPONDENT

SWAT: Former Director Information Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and leader of Qaumi Jirga Tehsil Barikot, Noorul Hadi, has said that the true identity of any civilized and responsible society lies in the cleanliness of its streets, neighborhoods, and markets. Cleanliness, he emphasized, is not solely the responsibility of the government or institutions, but a shared duty of every citizen. He expressed these views during a meeting with Assistant Director Local Government, Shafiullah Khan, accompanied by Chairman Village Council Kota and Joint Secretary of PML-N Swat District, Amir Zeb Bacha. The meeting focused on ongoing development projects in the province, particularly the cleanliness campaign.

During the briefing, Assistant Director Local Government Shafiullah Khan stated that the provincial government has allocated billions of rupees under a special scheme to make village councils more effective and functional. As part of the cleanliness campaign, more than 3,600 vehicles have been provided to village councils across the province, while over 10,000 sanitation workers have been recruited to ensure quality facilities at the local level. He added that village councils are being further strengthened to provide basic facilities at the citizens' doorstep. However, he made it clear that no campaign can succeed without public participation, urging citizens to play their active role in cleanliness and development initiatives.

MCMC designed to equip officers with modern management skills: Gul

The graduation ceremony of the 44th Mid-Career Management Course held at National Institute of Public Administration



STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR: Twenty-five officers from various occupational groups and services

of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Federal government successfully completed the course, which is a mandatory requirement for promotion to BS-19.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director General NIPA/PARD/PPSA Capt. (Retd) Usma Gul congratulated the participants on completing the course and emphasized the importance of continuous learning and professional development in the civil services of Pakistan. He stated that the Mid-Career Management Course is designed to equip officers with modern management skills, strategic thinking, and leadership qualities required to meet the emerging governance challenges of the country. The Director General further highlighted that civil servants play a vital role in national progress and must uphold integrity, commitment, and public service values in their professional careers. He urged the participants to apply the knowledge and skills gained during the training to bring innovation, efficiency, and responsiveness in their respective organizations. The ceremony concluded with the award of certificates to participants of the 44th MCMC. Chief Instructor MCMC Shabid Ullah Wazir presented the course report. The ceremony was attended by chief instructors, faculty and administrative staff of the three training institutes.

Asim assumes charge of KP Elementary & Secondary Education Department

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR: Muhammad Asim Khan, Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Elementary and Secondary Education, has formally assumed charge of his portfolio on Friday. On this occasion, various delegations congratulated him on taking over the portfolio and extended their best wishes. Speaking to the delegations, he stated that bringing out-of-school children into schools and providing quality education to enrolled students would be his top priority. He further emphasized that education is the fundamental right of every individual, and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government is giving it the highest priority by introducing revolutionary initiatives. Muhammad Asim Khan also highlighted that resolving teachers' issues is among his foremost priorities. Measures will be taken to overcome the shortage of teachers and provide them with training aligned with modern requirements.

Civil Society lauds DC Tank unprecedented public service

OUR CORRESPONDENT

TANK: Civil society members, community elders, and local residents have hailed Deputy Commissioner Tanveer Khan Khattak for his outstanding services and unprecedented initiatives in Tank, one of the most underdeveloped and conflict-affected districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Umer Khan of Gul Imam, Asmatullah Gomal, Habibullah Mulazai, Zubair of Ranwal said that DC Tanveer Khan, widely regarded as a people-friendly administrator, has launched a series of public welfare projects that have brought lasting relief to the citizens of Tank. His efforts to resolve the decades-old drinking water crisis top the list. For the first time in the district's history, clean drinking water has been made available through the installation and solarization of multiple tube wells in different neighborhoods, laying of new pipelines, and the construction of

a major water storage reservoir with a capacity of 120,000 gallons. In addition, irregularities in the Public Health Engineering Department were thoroughly investigated under his direction, resulting in the suspension of negligent officials by the provincial government. In the health sector, DC Tanveer Khan arranged free medical camps across all union councils, providing citizens with medical checkups, free medicines, and mobility support. "Over 300 wheelchairs were distributed among differently-abled persons and widows." He also ensured timely assistance to flood-affected families by delivering relief goods to their doorsteps. Infrastructure development has also been a hallmark of his tenure. The long-awaited two-kilometer Tank City Road project was completed under his supervision, easing traffic and improving mobility. Several other key roads, including Sabir Baba-Langerbai Road and Umar Adda-Sabir Baba Road, were constructed or rehabilitated, bringing significant relief to commuters. DC Tanveer Khan also spearheaded a decisive anti-encroachment drive, recovering millions of rupees worth of state land from land mafias despite immense pressure from influential groups. The operation opened up congested markets, including Tang Bazar and Daman Chowk, greatly improving traffic flow. In the education sector, he launched the solarization of multiple schools in Tank city and surrounding areas, ensuring a conducive learning environment. Water facilities and essential equipment were provided to students, while scholarships were awarded to position holders at Gomal University's Tank Campus. Sports and cultural revival were an

other focus, with events such as the Tank Festival, traditional horse-riding shows, and tournaments organized to engage youth in healthy activities. Sports equipment was distributed to local clubs to encourage participation. Furthermore, polio vaccination campaigns successfully covered thousands of children, while community jirgas and consultative meetings with local elders strengthened the relationship between administration and citizens. Civil society, parents, teachers, and local communities have praised these initiatives, calling DC Tanveer Khan's tenure a "turning point" in the district's governance. They credited him for delivering clean water, improved healthcare, better roads, education facilities, law enforcement against encroachers, and above all, ensuring that government resources reached the people without discrimination.

Five day Capacity Building Workshop held at University of Malakand



STAFF REPORT

PESHAWAR: Quality Enhancement Cell University of Malakand arranged a five day Capacity Building Workshop for Transport & Technical Staff at University of Malakand. On fifth day of the workshop Mr. Asif Imran; Deputy Registrar/Deputy Provost, University of Malakand was Resource Person. He focused upon the capacity building and practical skills of the supporting staff of the university. He also stressed upon ethical and behavioral approach in dealing of the faculty, students and other stakeholders while serving in the official timings. Deputy director QEC, Dr. Zar Muhammad and Data Analyst Dr. Abid Jan were also present on the occasion.

Karak admin launches crackdown on encroachments

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KARAK: The district administration Karak today carried out an anti-encroachment drive in the city under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government's "Awami Agenda" Program aimed at resolving public grievances and improving civic facilities. Additional Assistant Commissioner Karak-I, Hasan Shah along with the TMA Staff, inspected Karak city and removed illegal stalls, temporary structures, street vendors' blockages and unauthorized motorcycle parking from the footpaths. The AAC said that public spaces cannot be occupied and warned that future violations would be dealt with strictly under the Encroachment Act. He directed the traders and shopkeepers to confine their businesses within designated limits and cooperate with the administration. Shah added that the provincial government's "Awami Agenda" was designed to provide relief to the citizens and ensure lasting solutions to civic issues. He said anti-encroachment actions would con-



tinue to create a clean, peaceful, and accessible environment in Karak. AAC urged the citizens and the business

community to support the campaign, stressing that public cooperation was essential for its success.

KP govt takes revolutionary step to provide affordable internet services: Dr Shafqat

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Science & Technology and Information Technology, Dr. Shafqat Ayaz, has said that the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has taken a revolutionary decision to provide affordable and quality internet services to the people of the province. He stated that in 2022, the PDM government had decided that whenever a telecommunication company undertakes underground cable-laying work, the National Highway Authority (NHA) would charge Rs. 5 per meter. Due to this additional expense, many companies were reluctant to invest in internet infrastructure in the province, which directly harmed students, freelancers, businesses, and ordinary citizens. Dr. Shafqat Ayaz said that Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur has taken a people-friendly step by abolishing this charge for the next three years. This will reduce costs for telecom companies and



enable them to expand affordable and high-speed internet access to wider areas of the province. He added that the government has also made it mandatory that if, during excavation, any road or public pathway is damaged, the concerned company will repair it at its own cost. The purpose of this decision is to provide facilities without causing additional problems for the public.

Dr. Shafqat Ayaz emphasized that internet is the greatest necessity of the modern era, and this step reflects the vision of PTI's founding chairman Imran Khan's "Digital Pakistan" and the public relief agenda of Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur. He further stated that the greatest beneficiaries of this policy will be the youth, who depend on internet for online

education, freelancing, and employment opportunities. Likewise, the business community, banking services, hospitals, and other institutions will also benefit from modern digital access. Dr. Shafqat Ayaz clarified that some people try to create the impression that suspending or restoring internet services is a provincial government's authority. In reality, this matter falls strictly under the jurisdiction of the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), which operates directly under the federal government. The provincial government, however, is committed to taking every possible measure within its domain to ensure maximum relief for the people. He concluded by saying that the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is moving forward with full seriousness and determination towards a digital revolution, and under the leadership of Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, it is the government's top priority to provide modern technology and digital facilities to every citizen of the province.

Daily anti-dengue spray drive launches in Kohat



OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOHAT: The District Administration Kohat has launched a daily anti-dengue spray campaign to curb the spread of the mosquito-borne disease. The drive, initiated on the directives of the former federal interior minister and Member of National Assembly Shehryar Afridi and Deputy Commissioner Rahimullah Mehsud, will cover schools, mosques and public places across the Kohat, Darra Adam Khel, Gumbat and Lachi Tehsils. Deputy Commissioner said dengue posed a serious threat and the administration was mobilizing all available

resources to contain it. "Departments have been directed to ensure effective spraying without any negligence," he said. Mehsud urged the residents to keep their homes and neighborhoods clean, eliminate stagnant water and adopt preventive measures. Citizens have also been advised to immediately report the presence of mosquito larvae or suspected breeding sites to the district administration or control room for swift action. The campaign reflects the administration's commitment to protecting public health and addressing the growing dengue threat in the region.



KOHAT: A large number of people attend the protest rally against the Israel for attacking Global Sumed Flotilla, in City. — PHOTO: ONLINE

IESCO, NADRA Technologies launch biometric system for new power connections

Move aims to eliminate bogus connections, boost accountability, and strengthen consumer trust in utility services

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: In compliance with the Government of Pakistan and the Ministry of Energy’s directives on digitalization and consumer-friendly policies in the power sector, Chief Executive IESCO, Engineer Chaudhry Khalid Mehmood, signed an agreement at IESCO Head Office Islamabad with CEO NADRA Technologies Limited, Mr. Umar Khan Azad. Under this agreement, in the future, biometric verification

of consumers will be mandatory for the issuance of new electricity connections and reconections. Through this initiative, fake and illegal electricity connections will be eliminated, IESCO will have access to accurate consumer data, and defaulters will not be able to obtain a new electricity connection without clearing their outstanding dues. Engineer Chaudhry Khalid Mahmood stated that the use of modern technology is the need



of the hour, and IESCO, by adopting such technologies, is not only strengthening the power distribution system but also moving

towards improved customer service and transparency. CEO NADRA Technologies Limited, Mr. Umar Azad Khan, said

that their services will always be available for IESCO, as both institutions share the common goal of a prosperous Pakistan and a satisfied consumer.

Senior officers from IESCO and NADRA Technologies Limited also attended the ceremony.

RPO Dera inspects sites of new police stations and offices

MUHAMMAD REHAN

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Regional Police Officer (RPO) Dera, Syed Ashfaq Anwar, visited the proposed locations of new police stations and offices in Dera district. In line with the vision of the provincial government and Inspector General of Police (IGP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Zulfiqar Hameed, the RPO was accompanied by NESPAK PC Unit Peshawar representatives, contractors, and District Police Officer (DPO) Sajjad Ahmad Sahibzada. During the inspection, RPO Anwar gave a detailed briefing on the construction plans for police infrastructure, highlighting the provincial government and Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur’s commitment to strengthening police facilities. He emphasized that modern infrastructure would enable the police to play a more effective role in combating crime and maintaining law and order. It may be noted that seven police stations have already been built in Dera district during the current financial year. Ongoing construction projects include the Jat Police Station, Range Police Office,



DPO Office, Traffic Headquarters, Police Lines, Dera boundary wall and barracks, Police Facilitation Center, and the state-of-the-art Command and Control Center. The RPO further directed NESPAK

and PC Unit officials to ensure construction engineers remain present with the contractors at all times to guarantee high-quality standards and the use of durable materials.

GU, SBP launch UniPreneurship Program for student start-ups

MUHAMMAD REHAN

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Gomal University and the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) have launched a significant partnership under the “UniPreneurship” program to provide financial and technical support to talented students for business start-ups. Under this initiative, Gomal University will also establish an office within its Directorate of ORIC. An important meeting regarding the program was held in the office of Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, who presided over the session. The meeting was attended by Dean Faculty of Administrative Sciences and Law Dr. Zahid Awan, Registrar Zahir Shah Marwat, Director ORIC Dr. Muhammad Adeel, and senior SBP officials including Chief Manager Waqar, Deputy Chief Manager Raheel Zeib, and Assistant Chief Manager Aamir Ejaz. Vice Chancellor Dr. Zafar Iqbal appreciated the initiative, calling it a milestone in promoting self-employment, strengthening the regional economy, and fostering a culture of entrepreneurship among youth.



Representatives of SBP stated that, in collaboration with the Bankers Club and Bank Al Habib, subsidized loans would be offered for new start-ups. Additionally, seed grants will be provided to final-semester students to help implement their innovative business ideas. Gomal

University will not only extend technical assistance but also facilitate and promote student-led business ventures. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Gomal University and SBP will be signed soon to formalize the partnership.

Ejaz Mir: The chocolate hero who redefined versatility

ANJAD HADI YOUSAFZAI

PESHAWAR: Peshawar has long been celebrated for producing legends from sports icons to towering names in performing arts. Its soil has nurtured talent that not only shines locally but leaves an indelible mark on Pakistan’s cultural landscape. Among these celebrated sons of Peshawar is Ejaz Mir an actor, director, anchor, and writer whose journey through the world of television and performing arts spans nearly three and a half decades. Born in Peshawar Cantt as Ejaz Ahmad, he grew up with a flair for performance that soon became his destiny. He stepped into the spotlight in 1988/89, when, as a

teenager, he began acting for Peshawar Television. What started as a humble beginning quickly turned into a meteoric rise. Within a short span, Ejaz Mir became a household name and one of the most sought-after faces in Urdu television dramas. By the early 1990s, Mir was not just acting he was leading. With over 16 serials as the main hero, he carved his place among the industry’s elite. His unforgettable performances in dramas like In Hi Pathron Pe Chal Ke, Noorina, Wapsi, Sawal, Chingariyan, Faslon Ke Darmiyan, and Ajnabi Raaste Ajnabi Manzilen cemented his reputation as a “Chocolate Hero”, a title bestowed on him by audiences who

admired his charm and screen presence. But Ejaz Mir’s artistic journey was never confined to acting alone. He embraced his versatility, becoming a respected anchor, director, and writer. From anchoring live morning shows for two consecutive years to directing documentaries, mega musical shows, and even international sporting events like the PSL, World Cup, and the first-ever T-10 Cricket Series in Sharjah, Mir’s career expanded far beyond traditional drama sets. His years with Geo TV, TV One, Khyber TV, and K2 TV saw him take on leadership roles in production, proving his creative depth and technical command. Recognition followed naturally. In 2000,



he was honored with the PTV Best Actor Award, followed by a series of accolades including the SAC Gold Medal, Bank of Khyber Award, Pakistan Excellence Award (Karachi), Fakhar-e-Peshawar Award, and no fewer than 23 National Talent Awards. His crowning moment as a director came in 2015, when his drama RRF won first position at the All Pakistan AVT Drama Festival bagging nine awards, an unprecedented achievement in the festival’s history. Even today, Ejaz Mir continues to reinvent himself. His recent roles in Hum TV’s Khel, Nafrat, Aadhi Bewafai, and Green TV’s Dunyapur have reminded audiences why he remains such a be-

loved figure. And with upcoming serials like Hum TV’s Had and Green TV’s Pamal, his artistic flame shows no sign of dimming. Calm, soft-spoken, and deeply grounded despite decades of success, Ejaz Mir stands as a symbol of Peshawar’s cultural pride. From theatre to film, from television screens to live stadium broadcasts, his journey reflects not just the evolution of a single artist, but the story of Pakistan’s performing arts itself. For more than 35 years, Ejaz Mir has been more than just an actor. He is a storyteller, a mentor, and above all, a testament to how passion and perseverance can shape a legacy.

All parties reject privatization of Boni Tehsil Headquarters Hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT

UPPER CHITRAL: Anxiety and unrest have gripped the people of Upper Chitral following reports that the Tehsil Headquarters Hospital, Boni, may be handed over to private ownership under a public-private partnership. On the call of Jamaat-e-Islami Upper Chitral, an all-parties meeting was convened in Boni today after Friday prayers to discuss the issue. The meeting was attended by Jamaat-e-Islami Upper Chitral Ameer Asad-ur-Rehman, former Ameer Maulana Javed Hussain, JUI Upper Chitral Ameer and former Tehsil Nazim Maulana Muhammad Yousuf, ANP President Shah Wazir Lal, PML-N General Secretary Prince Sultan-ul-Mulk, PTI leaders including VC Chairmen Mazharuddin (Boni 2) and Irshad Ahmed (Kusht), former MS Dr. Shah Nadir, and other political representatives. PPP senior leader Syed Kausar Ali Shah also joined the consultation via phone. Chaired under a one-point agenda, the meeting unanimously rejected the proposal to privatize the hospital, terming it “tantamount to depriving the poor of their only basic health facility in the district.” Participants stressed that it is the provincial government’s responsibility to strengthen the hospital with modern equipment and adequate medical staff instead of reducing access through privatization.

Beyond the beat: A new Rap voice emerges from Pakistan’s north



SHAHID

PESHAWAR: In a region where folk traditions and classical instruments have long shaped the cultural landscape, a young rapper from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is quietly forging a new path in Pakistan’s evolving music scene. Alam Sher, who performs under the moniker Alamsher LLC, is part of a growing cohort of independent musicians challenging conventional norms. The 22-year-old’s stage name, with the suffix “LLC” standing for Listen, Learn, Create, reflects both a personal philosophy and a creative mission to articulate the hopes and anxieties of a generation navigating a rapidly shifting social environment. Unlike mainstream artists whose work is often geared toward radio play and commercial appeal, Alamsher’s music grapples with deeply personal themes identity, emotional isolation, and the complexities of coming of age in a conservative setting. His lyrics, shared widely through digital platforms, have found a receptive audience among young listeners seeking authenticity and relatability. Raised in Peshawar, Sher began experimenting with rhyme and rhythm during his school years. Without access to formal music training or professional studios, he turned to online tutorials, teaching himself the basics of production using little more than a laptop and free editing software. His early compositions, uploaded independently, quickly gained traction on social media, earning him a modest but loyal following. Observers say his appeal lies not in polished production but in the candour of his storytelling. “There’s a raw honesty in his music,” said a local cultural critic. “It doesn’t feel manufactured it feels lived. The rise of artists like Alamsher coincides with a broader transformation in Pakistan’s music industry. The increasing availability of digital tools and online distribution channels has lowered traditional entry barriers,

Courts and the Limits of Relief

The Supreme Court’s recent remarks in the case concerning reserved seats have once again highlighted the delicate balance between constitutional interpretation and political maneuvering. The Court has clarified that while the Constitution grants the judiciary authority to interpret the law, it does not give the judiciary the mandate to rewrite it. This distinction is critical because it reinforces the principle of separation of powers, ensuring that legislation remains the prerogative of Parliament, while the judiciary serves as the guardian of constitutional boundaries.

The observation that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) received relief in the matter of reserved seats without being a direct party raises serious questions about the sustainability of such relief. Judicial interventions must be guided by legal consistency, not political convenience. Relief granted without proper legal standing can set troubling precedents that may undermine the credibility of judicial processes. The Supreme Court’s warning signals the necessity of aligning all judgments with both procedural propriety and constitutional mandate.

The issue of reserved seats has become a flashpoint in Pakistan’s political landscape, reflecting broader struggles for legitimacy and representation. Reserved seats, whether for women or minorities, are designed to ensure inclusivity in the democratic process. Yet, when disputes over their allocation become entangled in political power games, the very spirit of inclusivity is weakened. Courts are then burdened with adjudicating matters that are, in essence, political disputes dressed in constitutional clothing.

What the Supreme Court’s remarks underscore is the need for political actors to resolve such issues within parliamentary mechanisms rather than dragging every disagreement into the courtroom. When the judiciary is compelled to repeatedly intervene, it not only strains judicial independence but also erodes the institutional space for political negotiation.

This episode should serve as a reminder for all stakeholders that respect for the Constitution must be non-negotiable. PTI, like other parties, must seek redress through proper channels and with full legal standing. Similarly, Parliament must exercise its legislative authority responsibly, ensuring clarity and fairness in electoral laws so that the courts are not repeatedly called upon to fill legislative gaps.

At a time when Pakistan faces immense political and economic challenges, constitutional disputes over reserved seats should not be allowed to distract from the urgent task of governance. The rule of law demands clarity, consistency, and discipline, not expedience.

UN’s Failure in Gaza

Once again, the United Nations Security Council has failed to fulfill its primary mandate: maintaining international peace and security. Pakistan’s strong statement on the Council’s inability to halt the bloodshed in Gaza reflects the deep frustration shared not only in the Muslim world but across the globe. Despite mounting casualties, endless humanitarian appeals, and growing outrage from civil society, the Security Council remains paralyzed, unable to pass binding resolutions or enforce accountability on Israel.

The tragedy in Gaza is not new, but the scale of recent atrocities has pushed the crisis into a humanitarian nightmare. Thousands of civilians, including women and children, have been killed, and basic infrastructure such as hospitals, schools, and aid convoys have become targets. The Council’s repeated failure to act decisively exposes the entrenched double standards that govern international politics. When conflicts erupt elsewhere, urgent sessions, sanctions, and resolutions are fast-tracked. But when it comes to Gaza, the veto power is used as a shield for Israel, allowing impunity to flourish.

Pakistan’s voice in this regard is not just symbolic; it underscores the demand for justice and accountability. The call for an immediate ceasefire, unfettered humanitarian access, and protection of civilian lives is not controversial—it is in line with the very principles upon which the UN was founded. Yet, these principles are betrayed every time the Council bows to political pressure rather than upholding international law.

The failure to stop the carnage in Gaza is more than an institutional lapse; it is a moral collapse. Each day that the Security Council hesitates, the credibility of the UN erodes further. The people of Gaza do not need statements of sympathy—they need action. If the Security Council cannot deliver on its core responsibility, then the global community must explore alternative mechanisms to ensure justice, accountability, and peace.

History will not remember the excuses; it will remember the silence. And in that silence, the cries of Gaza will remain an indelible stain on the conscience of the world.

MALIK MUHAMMAD ASHRAF



Can the critics and detractors of the accord honestly say what the alternatives would have been had the peace Plan not been pursued? What have they done to stop the genocide in Gaza?

Gaza Peace Plan

The assertion by the propagandists that Pakistan is going to recognise Israel is also a preposterous proposition.

The Peace Plan for a ceasefire in Gaza announced by President Trump — which also delineates the process for an eventual Palestinian state — after taking the leaders of Muslim countries into confidence and obtaining their endorsement, is the best possible recipe under the circumstances to move forward and end the permeating genocide of the Palestinian people.

It surely represents a climb-down both by the US and Israel from their rigid stance on the Palestinian issue, which envisaged the displacement of Palestinians from Gaza and its takeover by the US for turning it into a ‘Riviera’ of the Middle East, dashing hopes for the creation of the Palestinian state in conformity with the two-state solution. This intent was declared by Trump in a proposal on February 4, 2025, during a ceasefire in the war between Israel and Hamas-led Palestinian militants.

This climb-down by Trump and Israel can be attributed to joint efforts of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Turkey, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Iran, Malaysia, Indonesia, Pakistan and other Muslim countries; recognition of the Palestinian state by allies of the US; continued worldwide condemnation of the genocide in Gaza; incessant calls by the UN and world community for immediate ceasefire and stopping carnage of the inhabitants of Gaza. The changing security structure in the Middle East, in the backdrop of the Defence Pact between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, might have also contributed to this change in their stance.

The fact that the Plan has not only been endorsed and supported by leaders of the entire Muslim world but also by the Palestinian Authority President, Mahmoud Abbas and certain leaders of Hamas, who are the major stakeholders in this case, does indicate a real breakthrough. If they see it as a way forward, then there remains no cause for anybody else to look askance at it or try to find faults with it. Acceptance and implementation of the Plan would immediately put an end to the continuing genocide of the people of Gaza, which has been the major concern and priority of the entire world.

But unfortunately, there is no dearth of elements within Pakistan who, compelled by their cynicism, are trying to discredit the Plan, playing down the role of Pakistan in this regard and even insinuating a change in its stance on the Palestinian issue notwithstanding the fact that Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif in his address to the UN General Assembly had unequivocally declared that the people of Palestine be given their right to self-determination and an independent Palestinian state should be established according to the 1967 borders with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. Pakistan has neither recognised Israel in the past, nor has it done so today, nor will it do so in the future until the Palestinian people get their legitimate rights.

The assertion by the propagandists that Pakistan is going to recognise Israel is also a preposterous proposition. Pakistan has neither recognised Israel in the past, nor has it done so today, nor will it do so in the future until the Palestinian people get their legitimate rights. The narrative is a fabrication and a conspiracy against national unity which is not only a failed attempt to distort Pakistan’s principled position but is also tantamount to harming the struggle of the Palestinian people.

It is an undeniable fact that the Plan is the first important milestone that has paved the way for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. A clear roadmap for the establishment of a Palestinian state has

now emerged, which, God willing, will lay a lasting foundation towards the establishment of a Palestinian state. The Prime Minister of Pakistan’s support for this peace Plan is actually an endorsement and continuation of Pakistan’s historical position, as this agreement provides a practical basis for the establishment of a Palestinian state and preventing the genocide of Muslims in Gaza.

The fact is that Pakistan’s support of the Plan has brought the Muslim world on the same page and achieved historic progress, which has at least created hope for a lasting peace in the Middle East. Pakistan has been able to convince the world that it stands with the people of Palestine and will always stand with them.

The critics have actually not read the entire Plan carefully. It envisages immediate ceasefire; release of hostages and prisoners; gradual withdrawal of Israeli forces; redevelopment of Gaza; administration of Gaza by a transitional and temporary government of Palestinian technocrats to be supervised by a new international body established by the US in consultation with Arab and European partners; no displacements from Gaza and those who left will be encouraged to return; security guarantee will be provided by regional partners to ensure that Hamas and other Gaza factions comply with their obligations and that Gaza ceases to pose a threat to Israel or its own people; the US will work with Arab and other partners to develop a temporary international stabilisation force that will immediately deploy in Gaza to oversee security; Israel will not annex or occupy Gaza.

It further stipulates that the US will establish a dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians to agree on a political horizon for peaceful coexistence. The accord offers a practical pathway to stop the war, exchange hostages and begin reconstruction of Gaza. Perhaps it would be pertinent to point out that the US President is now not only talking about Israeli forces leaving Gaza, but a few days earlier, he also told reporters in the Oval Office that he will not allow Israel to annex the West Bank.

It was actually in the wake of the failure of international institutions, the UN and powerful states to stop the snowballing atrocities and rising scale of devastation that it became imperative for the Muslim Ummah to forge a new diplomatic push for a concrete alternative. It was responsible and collective diplomacy and not a betrayal and abandonment of Palestinians, as alleged by the detractors of the Plan.

Can the critics and detractors of the accord honestly say what the alternatives would have been had the peace Plan not been pursued? What have they done to stop the genocide in Gaza? Have the UN, EU or major powers been able to stop the genocide in Gaza during the last two years? Has there ever been this kind of cross-Muslim-world consensus on a major issue before? Can they imagine who will benefit from the failure of the Plan? They surely have no plausible answer to these questions.

The failure of the Plan will close the diplomatic window, allowing Israel to proceed unchecked, and the Palestinians will pay the price. The situation demands a wise and pragmatic approach by all the stakeholders, particularly by the dissenting elements of Hamas, unruffled by the spanners being thrown into the works. They should not let this historic opportunity slip away.

The writer is a freelance columnist. He can be reached at ashpak10@gmail.com

SALEEM BUKHARI



Over the past three years, poverty in Pakistan has surged with alarming persistence — rising from 18.3 percent in 2022 to 25.3 percent today, an increase of seven percentage points in less than a single electoral cycle.

According to the World Bank, nearly 45 percent of the population now lives beneath the poverty line, with Balochistan standing at a staggering 42 percent. These numbers are not abstract symbols; they are windows into shuttered homes, half-eaten meals, and young men wandering city streets with degrees in their hands but no work to claim their dignity. Each percentage point represents millions of stories of quiet despair.

Beneath the surface of these statistics lies a troubling narrative of systemic neglect. Poverty has not grown evenly; its weight is borne disproportionately by rural families, women, children, and those in provinces already battered by decades of underinvestment. The 45 percent figure masks sharp disparities: while urban households still cling to fragile lifelines, rural communities face vanishing opportunities, and in Balochistan entire villages remain cut off from clean water, functioning schools, or even a semblance of regular health care. The province’s 42 percent poverty rate is not merely a figure, but a chronicle of a land rich in resources

and yet starved of justice.

The World Bank’s assessment is stark: Pakistan’s developmental model has failed to reduce poverty. Economic growth has been uneven, policy execution inconsistent, and political will frequently consumed by short-term battles rather than long-term strategies. For decades, plans have been drawn not for the welfare of citizens but for the benefit of select classes. The result is the widening of the social gulf: while wealth consolidates in the hands of a few, the many fight daily for survival. Rising poverty has become not only an economic statistic but a threat to the social fabric itself.

Behind these figures lies a broader chain of causes. Population pressures continue to outpace job creation. Education has been reduced to a fractured system incapable of equipping millions with skills for a modern economy. Employment, where available, remains dominated by informal sectors offering no security and meager wages. Women, who could be powerful drivers of growth, remain largely excluded from economic participation. Each of these realities feeds directly into the stark percentages that now define the nation’s plight.

The social consequences are already visible. As household budgets collapse under the weight of inflation, nutrition among children declines, and the cycle of deprivation deepens. Education is the first casualty, as daughters are pulled from school or married off young to ease financial burdens. Hospitals see patients turned away, not because doctors lack skill, but because families cannot afford medicine. When nearly half of a nation’s citizens live below the poverty line, crime, social unrest, and disillusionment inevitably grow in the shadows.

In Balochistan, the statistics are a painful echo of lived reality. Resource-rich yet chronically marginalized, the province symbolizes the contradictions



The social consequences are already visible. As household budgets collapse under the weight of inflation, nutrition among children declines, and the cycle of deprivation deepens



of the Pakistani state. While the earth beneath its mountains hides vast wealth, its people endure lives stripped of opportunity. The 42 percent poverty rate there is not an accident but the result of generations of neglect — of schools that never opened, of clinics that were promised but never built, of jobs lost to the politics of distance and disinterest.

The World Bank’s warning is thus more than a bureaucratic statement; it is a cry of alarm. If population growth, education, and employment are not addressed with urgency, Pakistan will confront not only a deepening economic crisis but a profound social fracture. The percentages are clear. What remains uncertain is whether the political will exists to confront them. Research and data demand action: budgets must be audited, failed policies must be acknowledged, and interventions must be targeted to the groups most in need — women, children, rural families, and neglected provinces. Without such clarity, poverty will continue its silent expansion.

Yet beyond the economic arithmetic lies a deeper

tragedy. Poverty in Pakistan today is not simply the absence of income; it is the erosion of dignity. It is the extinguishing of hope before it can take shape. It is the story of the farmer who tills land yet cannot afford milk for his children, the teacher who shapes minds yet cannot secure books for his own, the laborer whose sweat builds cities but cannot feed his household. Poverty, in this sense, is both a number on a page and a wound across the nation’s collective conscience.

The figures — 18.3 to 25.3 percent, a rise of seven points in three years, nearly 45 percent of the entire population, and Balochistan at 42 percent — are not just data. They are testimony. They stand as evidence of a system that has failed its people and as a reminder that delay is no longer an option. If addressed with honesty, transparency, and courage, these numbers could still mark a turning point. If ignored, they will remain the measure of lives lost to hunger, children denied a future, and a society unraveling under the weight of its own neglect.

Hamas seeks more time

Trump sets Sunday deadline for Gaza deal

Trump warned Hamas fighters are surrounded, and will be hunted and killed unless they surrender now

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump on Friday issued an ultimatum to Hamas of 2200 GMT Sunday to accept his Gaza peace deal or face “all hell.” While Hamas asked for more time to review the deal. The Palestinian militants have until “Sunday Evening at SIX (6) PM, Washington, DC time,” Trump posted on his Truth Social platform.

“If this LAST CHANCE agreement is not reached, all HELL, like no one has ever seen before, will break out against Hamas.” It was not clear what Trump’s evacuation order to Palestinian civilians should mean. The Israeli military is waging an air and ground offensive on the territory’s largest urban center, from which hundreds of thousands have been forced to flee. The UN on Friday reiterated there was no safe place in Gaza and that Israel-designated zones in the south were “places of death.” Israel’s offensive has killed at least 66,225 Palestinians, according to health ministry figures in the Hamas-run territory that the United Nations considers reliable.

Hamas asks for more time to review proposal

A Hamas official told AFP on Friday that

the group still needed time to study US President Donald Trump’s plan to end nearly two years of devastating war in Gaza.

The proposal, backed by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, calls for a ceasefire, the release of hostages within 72 hours, Hamas’s disarmament and a gradual Israeli withdrawal from Gaza.

That would be followed by a post-war transitional authority headed by Trump himself. It was not clear what Trump’s evacuation order to Palestinian civilians meant. The Israeli military is waging an air and ground offensive on the territory’s largest urban center, from which hundreds of thousands have been forced to flee. The UN on Friday reiterated there was no safe place in Gaza and that Israel-designated zones in the south were “places of death.” Israel’s offensive has killed at least 66,225 Palestinians, according to health ministry figures in the Hamas-run territory that the United Nations considers reliable.

He did not specifically confirm that the visit would take place.

Discussions during Muttaqi’s trip would centre around bilateral cooperation, trade exchanges, exports of dry fruit, facilities in the health sector, consular services and various ports, said Zia Ahmad Takal, deputy spokesperson of the Afghan Taliban’s foreign ministry.

He did not, however, mention the dates of the visit.

Indian and Afghan media have reported that Muttaqi would travel to Russia before visiting New Delhi.

In Moscow, he was expected to discuss the situation in Afghanistan with representatives from Russia, China, Iran, Pakistan, India, and Central Asian countries, the reports said.

Hekmatullah Hekmat, an Afghan political analyst, said the visit to India was highly significant for the Taliban government.

“Afghanistan is in dire need of establishing relations with regional countries, especially its neighbours. It needs to build political, economic, and trade ties and to gain recognition,” he said.

Only Russia has so far recognised the Taliban government. India closed its embassy in Kabul in 2021, but a year later opened a technical mission to coordinate humanitarian assistance.

It said Israeli strikes killed at least 11 people across the territory, including eight in Gaza City.

Media restrictions in Gaza and difficulties accessing swathes of the territory mean AFP cannot independently verify details or casualty figures provided by the Israeli military or the civil defence.

‘Places of death’

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“The notion of a safe zone in the south is farcical,” UNICEF spokesman James Elder told reporters in Geneva, speaking from the Gaza Strip.

Amnesty International condemned a “catastrophic wave of mass displacement” as Israel intensified its Gaza City offensive.

“Two opinions’ in Hamas’

Another source familiar with the negotiations told AFP that the group was split over Trump’s plan.

Typhoon Bualoi death toll rises to 51 in Vietnam

HANOI: The death toll in Vietnam from Typhoon Bualoi and the floods it triggered has risen to 51, according to a Friday government report, as the central bank urged banks to support affected businesses.

Bualoi made landfall on Monday in northern central Vietnam, bringing huge sea swells, strong winds and heavy rains that also left 14 people missing and injured 164 others, according to the report from the government’s disaster management agency.

The agency also raised its estimate of property damage caused by the typhoon and its flooding to 15.9 trillion dong (\$603 million), up from \$435.8 million in a previous report released on Thursday.

The typhoon severely damaged roads, schools and offices, and caused power grid failures that left tens of thousands of families without electricity, the report said.

More than 230,000 houses were damaged or inundated, and nearly 89,000 hectares of rice and other crops were destroyed, it said.

The report did not mention any major damage to industrial properties.

Vietnam is a regional manufacturing hub, and large factories in or near the typhoon’s path included some owned by Foxconn, Formosa Plastics, Luxshare and Vinfast.

The central bank has told banks to consider restructuring or freezing loans for firms hit by the typhoon, deputy governor Pham Thanh Ha said on Friday.

Revamped Dubai Fountain dazzles crowds with new look

DUBAI: Set against the backdrop of the world’s tallest building, the Burj Khalifa, the Dubai Fountain has once again come to life after a five-month closure, dazzling visitors with its spectacular display.

The iconic attraction reopened to the public with an opening show choreographed to an Arabic melody, drawing large crowds who gathered to witness its grand return.

Mohamed Alabbar, founder of Emaar Properties — the developer behind the Burj Khalifa — said on the occasion that the Dubai Fountain symbolises “the spirit and energy of Dubai”, bringing joy and wonder to all who visit.

The latest upgrades have introduced cutting-edge technology, refreshed choreography, and enhanced sound and lighting systems, designed to offer audiences an even more impressive experience.

Regular shows will now resume, taking place every half-hour between 6 pm and 11 pm daily. Afternoon performances will run at 1pm and 1:30 pm from Saturday to Thursday, and at 2 pm and 2:30 pm on Fridays.

Construction of the Dubai Fountain began in 2005, with its grand opening in 2009.

Renowned as the world’s largest dancing fountain, it can shoot water jets up to 152 metres high, supported by 6,600 lights and 25 colour projectors.

A second phase of renovation is scheduled to commence in the second quarter of 2026.

India set to receive first Afghan Taliban minister

Afghan FM Amir Khan Muttaqi faces UN travel ban, asset freeze; exemptions allowed for diplomacy



NEW DELHI: The UN Security Council Committee has temporarily lifted a travel ban on the Afghan Taliban foreign minister, which would allow him to visit India between October 9 and 16, India’s foreign ministry said on Friday.

If confirmed, it would be the first visit to India by a senior leader of the Taliban-run Afghan administration since it seized power in 2021 after 20 years of US military presence.

Delhi and Kabul have traditionally en-

joyed close ties when the Islamist Taliban were not in power.

Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi is among Afghan Taliban members who are under UN sanctions including a travel ban and asset freeze. Temporary exemptions are sometimes granted for diplomacy.

India’s foreign ministry spokesperson told reporters that New Delhi had already been speaking to the Afghan administration, and noted that it had provided support after an earthquake on August 31.

He did not specifically confirm that the visit would take place.

Discussions during Muttaqi’s trip would centre around bilateral cooperation, trade exchanges, exports of dry fruit, facilities in the health sector, consular services and various ports, said Zia Ahmad Takal, deputy spokesperson of the Afghan Taliban’s foreign ministry.

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Group leading Morocco protests demands govt dismissal

Protests erupt nationwide over social inequality after deaths of eight pregnant women



CASABLANCA: The group leading Morocco’s mass protests called on Friday for the government’s dismissal, following days of unrest that have seen the deaths of three people.

The demand came after fresh demonstrations demanding reforms to the health and education sectors took place across the kingdom on Thursday, a sixth consecutive day of largely peaceful protests pockmarked with spates of violence.

“We demand the dismissal of the current government for its failure to protect the constitutional rights of Moroccans and respond to their social demands,”

protest group GenZ 212 said.

The group, whose organisers remain unknown, also demanded the “release of all those detained in connection with the peaceful protests”.

The rallies across the usually stable country have been fuelled by anger over social inequality, particularly following reports last month of the deaths of eight pregnant women at a public hospital in the city of Agadir.

Many Moroccans feel that the public health and education sectors should be improved as the kingdom pushes forward with major infrastructure projects to host

the Africa Cup of Nations in December and part of the 2030 World Cup.

GenZ 212 said it was basing its demand for the firing of the government on an article in the constitution that “grants His Majesty the King the power to appoint and dismiss the Prime Minister and members of the government”.

The group has largely used the Discord online messaging platform to spread its calls for protest, and has repeatedly distanced itself from the violence and vandalism seen in some cities.

In the capital Rabat on Thursday, demonstrators carrying Moroccan flags demanded “health and not just stadiums”, according to an AFP journalist, who said there were no violent incidents.

Other rallies were reported in Casablanca, Marrakech and Agadir, also with no sign of unrest.

‘Dialogue’

Earlier on Thursday, Prime Minister Aziz Akhannouch said in his first public address since the unrest started that his government was willing to “engage in dialogue” and “respond to the (protesters’) demands”.

The premier also said three people had been killed during protests the night before, describing the events as “regrettable”.

Texas woman sentenced to five years for attempted drowning of Muslim child



TEXAS: A Texas woman was sentenced to five years in prison for attempting to drown a 3-year-old Palestinian-American Muslim girl in a May 2024 incident that local police said was motivated by racial bias.

Court records and proceedings cited by CBS News and the Fort Worth Star-Telegram showed Judge Andy Porter sentenced Elizabeth Wolf, 43, after she pleaded guilty to attempted murder and injury to a child. Wolf was indicted last year after the attack, which was condemned by then-President Joe Biden, and waived a trial by jury.

Human rights advocates note rising threats against American Muslims, Arabs and Jews since the start of Israel’s assault on Gaza after a 2023 Hamas attack.

The incident occurred at an apartment complex swimming pool in Euless, Texas. Wolf argued with the mother of the 3-year-old girl. The mother was also at the pool with her 6-year-old son, and Wolf asked where they were from, a police report said.

Wolf tried to drown the 3-year-old and attempted to grab the 6-year-old, the report said. The mother pulled her daughter from the water and the children were medically cleared after medics responded.

Russia ready to push war to Europe, warns Zelensky

COPENHAGEN: Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelensky has warned European leaders that Russia is preparing to step up the war. Speaking at a summit of European leaders from just under 50 countries in Copenhagen on Thursday, he pointed to recent drone flights over Denmark and other countries as a sign that Moscow is looking to escalate the conflict beyond Ukraine’s borders.

He urged Europe to take the threat seriously and said Ukraine is ready to share its battlefield experience to help partners defend themselves. The warning came at a summit of European leaders from just under 50 countries, who converged on a conference centre in Copenhagen under tight security after mystery drone flights rattled Denmark last month.

The drone sightings in Denmark and high-profile aerial incursions by Moscow in Estonia and Poland have heightened fears that Russia’s assault on Ukraine could spill over Europe’s borders. “The recent drone incidents across Europe are a clear sign that Russia still feels bold enough to escalate this war,” Zelensky said.

“It was never just about Ukraine, Russia has always aimed to break the West and Europe.”

Russian President Vladimir Putin waived the accusations, but said Russia was “closely monitoring the rising militarisation of Europe”, adding that Moscow’s response will be timely and “significant”. Putin accused Europe of stoking “hysteria” to excuse rising military spending, and said Russia did not pose a threat. “Just calm down,” he said.

European leaders are keen to work



with Ukraine’s war-tested expertise as they seek to bolster their own defences, and are discussing plans for a “drone wall” to counter the menace from Moscow.”If the Russians dare to launch drones against Poland, or violate the airspace of northern European countries, it means this can happen anywhere,” Zelensky said. “We are ready to share this experience with our partners.”

French President Emmanuel Macron said Western countries should be willing to take a tougher line when confronted by Russian drones, to sow doubt in the Kremlin.”It’s very important to have a clear message. Drones which would violate our territories are just taking a big risk. They can be destroyed, full stop,” Macron said. Romanian Prime Minister Nicosur Dan, whose country has seen Russian drones crossing over from Ukraine, warned that his forces would shoot down the next one to violate their airspace.

As Russia’s full-scale war on

Ukraine drags on through a fourth year, Europe is scrambling to keep up pressure on Moscow and secure funding for Kyiv. Macron said it was key to step up efforts to counter the so-called shadow fleet of ageing oil tankers to “kill” the business model Russia uses to circumvent restrictions on exporting its oil. “It is extremely important to increase the pressure on this shadow fleet, because it will clearly reduce the capacity to finance this war effort,” said Macron — pointing at France’s move this week to hold a blacklisted tanker linked to Russia.

In a bid to ensure Ukraine has the financing it needs, the European Union is exploring a proposal to use frozen Russian assets to fund a new 140-billion-euro (\$165-billion) loan.

Proponents say the move is needed to help Ukraine plug budget shortfalls — and that Russia, not European taxpayers, should ultimately foot the bill. But Belgium, where the vast majority of frozen assets are held, has deep reservations over the plan, which some leaders fear could spook other investors or draw Russian retaliation.

“We’re going to move to uncharted waters. This is very, very risky,” Belgian Prime Minister Bart De Wever said. He insisted he wanted clear commitments from all EU leaders that they would share the potential liability with Belgium to shield it from any Russian retribution.

EU chief Ursula von der Leyen said Wednesday it was clear that risk should not fall only on Belgium’s shoulders and that she would “intensify” talks on the proposal. — DNA

وَمَنْ أَحْبَبَا مَا فَتَكَ نَمَّا أَحْبَبَا النَّاسَ جَمِيعاً ”اور جس نے کسی ایک انسان کی زندگی بچائی ہو تو گویا اس نے پوری انسانیت کو بچایا“

عبادت اس مقام تک نہیں پہنچا سکتی
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Arrest of aid convoy for Palestinian people is strongly condemned: Usman

STAFF REPORTER



ISLAMABAD: Engineer Usman Nawaz Basra, Official Coordinator of Islamabad Estate Agents Association, strongly condemned the arrest and

obstruction of the aid convoy carrying humanitarian assistance for the help-less people of Palestine. He termed this action a blatant violation of international laws and demanded the immediate delivery of the relief goods.

He said that the Gaza Strip is currently facing one of the worst humanitarian crises, with severe shortages of food, medicines, and other basic necessities. In such circumstances, stopping humanitarian aid convoys or arresting those involved is deeply regrettable and an inhumane act.

He urged the international community and the United Nations to take urgent notice of this serious matter and ensure that relief supplies reach the Palestinian people without hindrance. He further reaffirmed that the business community will continue to support their Palestinian brothers and sisters and will play its full role in the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

PSMA Warns Government’s Sugar Import Decision Threatens Farmers and Industry Stability

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Sugar Mills Association (PSMA) has strongly criticized the government’s decision to import 0.3 million metric tons (MMT) of sugar, warning that the move, despite sufficient domestic stocks, will harm both farmers and the sugar industry.

In a statement, a PSMA spokesperson said the industry had consistently cautioned against unnecessary sugar imports, emphasizing that the country already possesses abundant sugar reserves as of November 18, 2025. He noted that the disposal of existing stocks is critical to alleviating the financial crisis facing the sector.

The spokesperson highlighted that floodwaters remain stagnant in many agricultural areas, preventing sugarcane harvesting. “The government must evaluate the severity of the situation before taking such steps,” he urged. He further criticized the decision to import sugar on a tax- and duty-free basis, along with additional subsidies, saying it would create severe market distortions. “The government often closes the FBR portal of mills to facilitate the sale of imported sugar,” he alleged, calling upon authorities to make conclusive, farmer-friendly decisions that ensure the survival and sustainability of the domestic sugar industry.



Minister of State for Finance and Railways, Bilal Azhar Kayani took a test ride on the Etihad Rail, Travelling from Aj Faya Depot in Abu Dhabi to Al Qudra in Dubai on Friday. Photo: PID

No UN aid needed: FinMin

Pakistan had made a significant improvement in remittances, which reached \$38 billion last year and are projected to grow to \$41-43 billion in the current fiscal year

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has ruled out the need for seeking assistance from the United Nations (UN) for flood-related relief, saying that Pakistan has ample resources available within its development budget of Rs4.3 trillion (around US\$12–13 billion) for rescue and relief efforts.

Addressing a Pakistan Business Summit as a keynote speaker in Peshawar, the finance minister said that by effectively prioritising and coordinating between the federal government and provinces, the funds could be repurposed to tackle the destruction caused by the recent floods

that have severely impacted agricultural lands nationwide, The News reported.

Aurangzeb said Pakistan had made a significant improvement in remittances, which reached \$38 billion last year and are projected to grow to \$41-43 billion in the current fiscal year.

He said that Pakistan successfully repaid \$500 million in Eurobond obligations in September this year without market disruption and it is well-positioned to repay the \$1.3 billion Eurobond in April 2026.

The conference was the first major business activity in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa’s capital city in years as policymakers, investors, and corporate leaders from across the country participated in the

event under the theme of “Shaping What’s Next”. The summit was also addressed by acting president and Senate chairman Yusuf Raza Gilani, KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, Federal Minister for Privatisation Mohammad Ali, KP Advisor for Finance Muzammil Aslam, former minister Mohammad Azfar Ahsan, and others.

Aurangzeb said that the remittance inflows into the formal economy had increased. “Last year, we had \$38 billion in remittances. This year, we expect \$41-43 billion,” he said. He maintained that the policy rate, which remains at 11%, is expected to be lowered in the ongoing fiscal year. “Although the policy rate is very

much the domain of the central bank, I think there is enough cushion that we can continue to push the rate south during the course of this fiscal year,” he added.

Aurangzeb said that in order to take the private sector forward, a structural reform agenda should be pursued effectively. He said that the government needed to restore the trust and credibility of tax authorities in the country. “We are making progress in both deepening and widening the tax base,” he added. The finance minister said that the Federal Board of Revenue has been reduced to a tax/revenue collection forum, and the economic policymaking has been shifted to the finance division.

Pakistan’s trade deficit balloons nearly 46% to \$3.3bn

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan’s trade deficit ballooned nearly 46% in September 2025 to \$3.34 billion, official data showed Thursday, as imports surged and exports shrank, increasing pressure on the country’s fragile external sector and threatening currency stability.

The deficit, up from \$2.29 billion in September last year, was fuelled by a 14% jump in imports to \$5.85 billion, while exports slid 11.7% to \$2.5 billion, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). Compared with August 2025, the gap widened 16.3%. For the July–September quarter of the ongoing fiscal year, the trade gap swelled 32.9% year-on-year to \$9.37 billion.

Imports during the period climbed 13.5% to \$16.97 billion, while exports fell 3.8% to \$7.6 billion. Economists warn the widening deficit could strain foreign reserves, fuel rupee volatility, and complicate debt repayments at a time when Pakistan is already dependent on external financing.

PBS data also showed the services trade deficit rising 21.9% in August 2025, reaching \$437 million against \$358 million a year earlier. While services exports rose 8.4% to \$672 million, imports grew faster at 13.4% to \$1.11 billion.

In the last fiscal year (July-June FY25),



however, the services trade deficit narrowed 15.8% to \$2.62 billion compared with \$3.1 billion in FY24, as exports of services improved 9.2% to \$8.4 billion while imports rose modestly by 2% to \$11 billion.

Independent economists say the ballooning goods trade gap, paired with renewed services import demand, underscores Pakistan’s structural export weakness. Without aggressive steps to boost industrial competitiveness and diversify exports, the deficit could derail stabilisa-

tion gains made under the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme.

Strengthening regional trade links, incentivising high-value exports, and curbing non-essential imports are seen as urgent measures to ease external sector stress. Dr Khaqan Najeef, former adviser to Ministry of Finance, said Pakistan’s export model remains heavily concentrated in agriculture and textiles, which together account for the bulk of our \$30–31 billion in annual exports.

This narrow base leaves the country exposed to price swings, limited demand, and little room for innovation. Dr Khaqan felt to truly unlock export potential, we need to move beyond low-complexity, commodity-driven growth by strengthening the ecosystem that underpins exports — from affordable and reliable energy to smoother logistics, easier market access, frictionless transactions, wider access to finance, and a skilled workforce aligned with global standards.

At the same time, diversification into higher-value and knowledge-intensive sectors such as technical textiles, processed foods, branded agro-products, light engineering, and IT/BPO is critical. Only by upgrading both the structure and the complexity of our exports can Pakistan build resilience, raise incomes, and compete sustainably in global markets concluded Dr Najeef.

Marwat directs officers to ensure recovery of Agricultural Income Tax



OUR CORRESPONDENT

MARDAN: Senior Member Board of Revenue (SMBR) Javed Marwat has directed revenue officers to ensure the effective recovery of government taxes, particularly the newly implemented Agricultural Income Tax, by adopting appropriate mechanisms.

He stated that an extensive awareness campaign will be launched under the communication strategy for the Agricultural Income Tax Act 2025, to educate both taxpayers and relevant staff about the new law. He was addressing a meeting of revenue officers and staff from the Mardan and Swabi districts held at the Commissioner Office’s conference room. The meeting was attended

by Commissioner Mardan Division Nisar Ahmad, Board of Revenue Members Attar-Rehman and Ghafoor Shah, Deputy Commissioners of Mardan and Swabi, Additional Commissioner, and other relevant officials.

During the meeting, a detailed review was conducted on the performance of Service Delivery Centers in Mardan and Swabi, the current status of government revenue collection, and the facilitation being provided to the public in revenue-related matters.

Taking notice of the slow progress in converting “Khana Kasht” (cultivated land records) into “Khana Malkiat” (ownership records), the SMBR instructed officers to remove obstacles and expedite the process.

Javed Marwat further directed that maximum facilities be provided at Service Delivery Centers, especially for women, to ensure ease for citizens visiting for various revenue matters. He added that to reduce public rush at the SDCs, certain services may be shifted back to Model Patwar Khanas, and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is being considered with NADRA for issuing land record documents (Fardat).

Reminding officers of their core responsibilities, Marwat said that while government employees may be assigned various duties, their primary role remains revenue collection — a key performance indicator — and they must not neglect this responsibility under any circumstances.

Oppo inaugurates Peshawar flagship store, announcing the nationwide availability of Oppo A6 Pro from 4th October

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR: OPPO, the global leader in smartphone devices, proudly announces the nationwide sales of its newly launched A6 Pro from 4th October, setting a new standard in durability, performance, and power. Alongside this milestone, OPPO also celebrates the grand opening of its first official flagship store in the Peshawar region, marking a significant milestone in the brand’s commitment to making premium technology and quality customer service accessible nationwide.

OPPO A6 Pro will be officially available across Pakistan, including OPPO’s newly inaugurated flagship store in Peshawar, giving customers a first-hand opportunity to experience and purchase the powerful new A-series device.

The OPPO A6 Pro combines Pro Power,

Pro Smooth performance, and Pro Waterproof protection to deliver an uncompromised smartphone experience. Packed with a massive 7,000 mAh battery, the device supports 80W SUPERVOOC™ fast charging and reverse charging capability, powering up to 100% in just 61 minutes and offering up to two full days of usage on a single charge.

Built for Pro Smooth performance, it features Pakistan’s strongest VC Cooling technology, best built-in 4G+ connectivity with AI LinkBoost 3.0, and a stunning 120 Hz AMOLED display for fluid streaming, scrolling, and gaming. Durability is at its core, with triple IP66, IP68, and industry-leading IP69 water and dust resistance along with Military-Grade Shock Protection, making it one of the toughest and most reliable smartphones in its class.

Marking this milestone, OPPO also unveiled its first official flagship store in Peshawar, designed to bring premium technology and services closer to users in the region. The store offers product sales, immersive experiences, and professional after-sales services under one roof. Trained engineers provide on-the-spot repairs, maintenance, and software updates, ensuring fast and reliable customer support.

Alongside the A6 Pro, visitors can also explore OPPO’s wide portfolio of smart IoT products, including the OPPO Pad SE, OPPO Watch X2, and Enco Buds 3 Pro. To celebrate the launch, OPPO is offering exclusive in-store promotions, including special discounts, free gift boxes and accessories, a lucky draw with prizes ranging from OPPO earphones to motorcycles, interactive games, and a unique zero-ru-



pee auction, ensuring every visitor enjoys a memorable experience.

“Our nationwide sales of the OPPO A6 Pro represent another step forward in delivering innovation, durability, and power to Pakistani consumers,” said George Long, CEO of OPPO Pakistan. “The Peshawar flagship further strengthens our connection with local customers, giving them direct access to OPPO’s latest technology and premium services.”

The OPPO A6 Pro will be available nationwide from October 4 and can also be experienced first-hand at the newly inaugurated OPPO Peshawar Flagship Store, located at Shop #96, Survey Number 579, Main Sadar Road, near Stadium Chowk, Peshawar Cantt. Customers are invited to visit the store to explore the A6 Pro along with OPPO’s latest smart technology in a premium retail environment.

Women's World Cup

England thrash South Africa by 10 wickets

The 69-run total was the Proteas' third lowest in ODIs and their worst against England

GUWAHATI: After bowling out the Proteas for a paltry 69 in just 20.4 overs, England's openers Tammy Beaumont and Amy Jones made light work of the chase, cantering home in 14.1 overs.

Electing to bowl first, England rolled the dice early by tossing the new ball to spin, a move captains often shy away from in the power play. But left-arm twacker Linsey Smith turned out to be the ace up their sleeve, exploiting a tacky surface that had South Africa groping in the dark.

"To get that start was very special. I only found out yesterday that I was opening the bowling and I was excited for the challenge. The conditions suited me well," said Smith. It was just Smith's fifth ODI, but the 30-year-old is no stranger to international cricket, having been part of England's T20 side since 2018. Now a permanent fixture in the 50-over team, her willingness to bowl in the danger zone of the power play could be a trump card for England going forward in this campaign.

Smith struck in each of her first three overs and was unlucky not to bag a fourth when a stumping chance off Sinalo Jafta went begging. Jafta clung on grimly for 22, the lone South African to reach double figures in a sorry tale of collapse.

It was the Proteas' third lowest total in ODIs and their worst against England.



The chase was little more than a formality, though Jones survived a let-off on 31 when Masabata Klaas spilled a return catch. She finished unbeaten on 40 with Beaumont on 21 not out.

"Not the way we wanted to start the tournament. We've shown resilience in

the past and we'll bounce back," South African skipper Laura Wolvaardt insisted as her batters were left searching for answers.

England's dominance was such that Heather Knight, marking her 150th ODI appearance was not required to bat or

bowl as her team-mates were so dominant against South Africa. She became only the second player from England to feature in 150 women's ODIs.

The emphatic win vaulted England to the top of the points table with all eight teams now having played one game each.

'Don't politicise it': Sana Mir responds to Indian critics of Azad Kashmir remark

"It's unfortunate how things are being blown out of proportion," says the ICC Hall of Famer

COLOMBO: Former Pakistan captain Sana Mir has responded to Indian criticism over her reference to 'Azad Kashmir' during commentary in Pakistan's ICC Women's World Cup 2025 clash against Bangladesh in Colombo.

The incident occurred at the R Premadasa Stadium, where Mir, while speaking about Pakistan all-rounder Natalia Pervaiz, initially said "Kashmir" before correcting herself to "Azad Kashmir".

Mir took to X (formerly Twitter) to issue a statement, lamenting that her remarks were blown out of proportion "and people in sports

are being subjected to unnecessary pressure". She clarified her words were never meant as a political remark but as part of the storytelling that commentators do by highlighting players' backgrounds.

"It's unfortunate how things are being blown out of proportion [...]. My comment about a Pakistan player's hometown was only meant to highlight the challenges she faced [...]. There is no malice in my heart or any intention to hurt sentiments," Mir wrote.

She added that as a commentator on the World Feed her role was to focus on the sport



and players, showcasing inspiring stories of grit and perseverance, not politics.

To support her statement, Mir also shared a screenshot from ESPNcricinfo, showing Natalia Pervaiz's profile listing her birthplace as "Bandala, Azad Jammu and Kashmir." Mir explained this was her source of in-

formation, though she noted the site has since been updated.

The clarification comes at a sensitive time in cricket relations between Pakistan and India. The men's Asia Cup 2025 tournament saw India's men's team refuse handshakes with Pakistani players, while the trophy presentation was overshadowed by India's refusal to accept medals from ACC and PCB chief Mohsin Naqvi.

With Pakistan's women playing all their matches in Sri Lanka due to PCB-BCCI tensions, the controversy around Mir's comment has further highlighted how cricket continues to be entangled with politics.

Bangladesh won the match by seven wickets, leaving Pakistan struggling to stay afloat in the group stage of the Women's World Cup.

Pakistan's Noor Zaman qualifies for Charlottesville Open semi-final



Zaman stormed into the Charlottesville Open quarter-final with a resounding 3-1 victory over England's Tom Walsh on Thursday.

The in-form player, who received a first-round bye, started the game on a high as he sealed a hard-fought opening set 13-11, while completely outclassing Walsh 11-5 in the second. The Englishman pulled one back by sealing the third set 11-5, only for Zaman to clinch the fourth and round up a comprehensive victory to book his spot in the quarter-final.

Notably, Zaman is riding high on confidence after clinching the Nash Cup in Canada last week, another PSA World Tour event. The 21-year-old, seeded fifth, stunned the tournament's No. 2 seed 3-0 in a gripping 52-minute contest.

Noor Zaman edged a marathon first game 19-17 before sealing the match with 11-7 and 11-9 wins. The triumph marked a significant milestone for the reigning World U23 Champion. On the other hand, Zaman's compatriots Ashab Irfan and Asim Khan suffered defeats in their respective Round of 16 matches and were thus knocked out of the tournament. Asim suffered a 3-0 defeat at the hands of top seed Timothy Brownell, while India's Veer Chotrani crushed Ashab 3-1.

'Trionda': FIFA unveils official ball of 2026 World Cup

The ball is again designed by German manufacturer Adidas, provider of official World Cup balls since 1970

NEW YORK: FIFA has unveiled the official match ball for the 2026 World Cup, combining high-tech refinements and design details celebrating the three co-host countries — the United States, Mexico and Canada.

The ball, called Trionda, was again designed by German manufacturer Adidas, provider of the official World Cup balls since the 1970 tournament.

"I am delighted and proud to present the Trionda," FIFA president Gianni Infantino as the ball was revealed at an event in New York on Thursday.

The first World Cup organised by three countries, with 48 teams competing, inspired both the name and the design of the ball featuring red, blue and green colours.

Iconography from each host nation — maple leaves from Canada, the eagle from Mexico and stars from the United States also feature, with a triangle referring to the unity of the three countries. Less visible are technological advancements that include deep seams designed to produce "optimal in-flight stability" and embossed icons that improve grip in wet or humid conditions. A motion sensor chip will relay information on the ball's movement, sending data to the video assistant referee (VAR) system. The unveiling marks another step in the countdown to the North American World Cup, which will be held June 11-July 19 next year. FIFA has launched its online phased ticket sales procedures, with more than 4.5 million fans from 216 countries and territories entering the presale draw.

Marquez crashes twice in Indonesia MotoGP practice

LOMBOK: Newly crowned world champion Marc Marquez fell twice on Friday in a crash-filled practice for the Indonesia MotoGP as Marco Bezzecchi clocked a blistering fastest time. Spanish great Marquez took a spill early on in the afternoon session, sliding off the track, before returning only to suffer a heavier crash after a wobble threw him off his Ducati.

The 32-year-old was able to recover but could only set the 11th-fastest time, leaving him out of the top 10 and dropping into the first round of qualifying on Saturday for the first time this season. It was instead Aprilia's Bezzecchi who set the standard in humid conditions at the Mandalika track on the resort island of Lombok. The Italian, fourth in the overall standings, recorded a best time of 1min 29.24sec, 0.408sec ahead of Ducati's Fermin Aldeguer and 0.424sec faster than KTM's Pedro Acosta. Marquez will be joined in Q1 by two-time world champion Francesco Bagnaia, third in the championship standings, who struggled to a 17th-fastest time.

Marquez, who has already set a single-season points record for a MotoGP rider, can still reach the second qualifying round if he finishes fastest or second-fastest in the first qualifying session. His brother Alex, second in the overall standings, also went down in a painful crash but his bike bore the brunt of the damage. He sneaked into Q2 on Saturday with the 10th-fastest time. A dramatic practice session also saw Johann Zarco and Enea Bastianini crash.

Namibia beat Tanzania by 63 runs



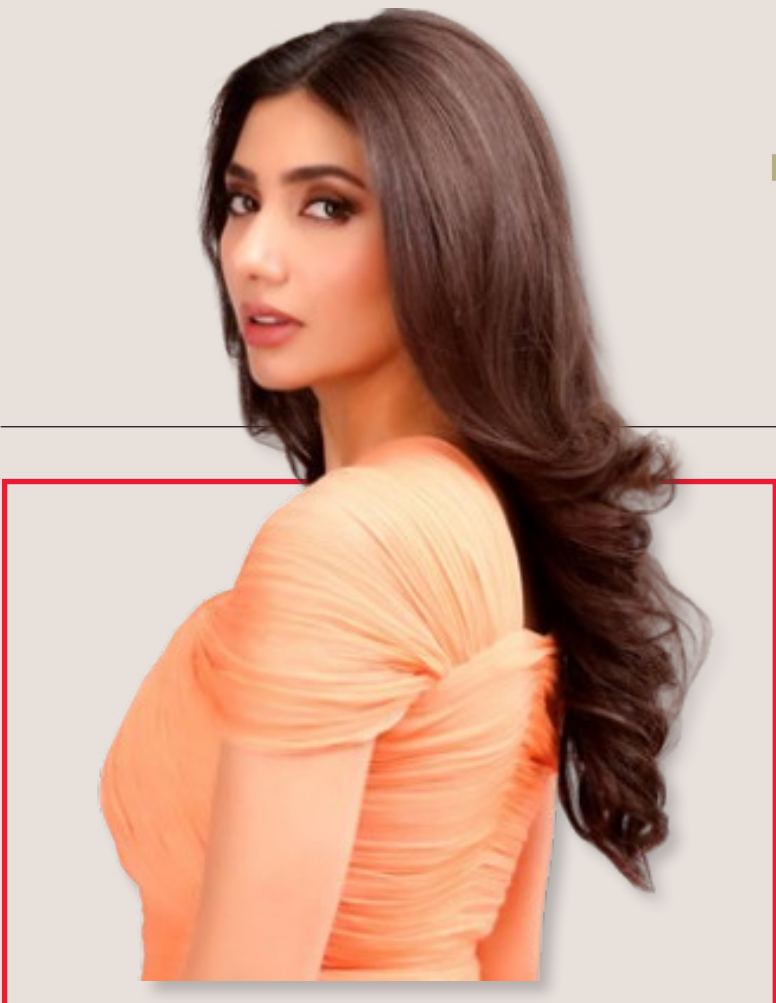
NAMIBIA: 174-6 in 20 overs (J.J. Smit 61 not out, G. Erasmus 55; K. Juma 2-29, A. Kimote 2-41) TANZANIA: 111-8 in 20 overs (A. Patwa 31, M. Suthar 24; Smit 3-16, B. Shikongo 3-21). Zimbabwe beat Kenya by seven wickets. KENYA: 122-6 in 20 overs (R. Patel 65; B. Muzarabani 2-19) v ZIMBABWE: 123-3 in 15 overs (B. Bennett 51, T. Mazarumani 39; V. Patel 2-29). — DNA

PUBLIC NOTICE Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Syed Asad Ullah with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Man Nasrullah citizen number 1710204124873 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs: 1. Muhbailah(brother) 2. Syeda Mishahia Begum(sister) 3. Syed asad ulah(brother) 4. Mefahia Begum(sister) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA RHO PESHAWAR-SFU	PUBLIC NOTICE Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Nasir Iqbal with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Jamila Yasmeen citizen number 1730141487292 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs: 1. Naweeda Iqbal(daughter) 2. nasir iqbal(son) 3. muzaffar iqbal(son) 4. zia ur rehman(son) 5. amjad hussain(son) 6. sulaiman khaliid(son) 7. noor ul basar(son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA RHO PESHAWAR-SFU	PUBLIC NOTICE Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ghanai citizen number 1730192011181 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs: 1. muhammad karaman(son) 2. jayyiba(spouse) 3. Aziz Ahmad(son) 4. zia ur rehman(son) 5. amjad hussain(son) 6. sulaiman khaliid(son) 7. noor ul basar(son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA RHO PESHAWAR-SFU
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PUBLIC NOTICE Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Hamayun Khan with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Naheed citizen number 1730188193856 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs: 1. waqar ahmad(brother) 2. hamayun khan(brother) 3. imran ahmad(brother) 4. najia gohar(sister) 5. toza khan(sister) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA ISLAMABAD-DSFU	PUBLIC NOTICE Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Syeda Khaliida with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Syed Akhlaq Ahmad citizen number 1730113084675 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs: 1. syeda faiza talat shakeel(sister) 2. syeda shahnaz fatima(spouse) 3. syed muhammad abdur rehman(brother) 4. syeda khaliida(sister) 5. syeda tayyaba maghforsister) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA RHO PESHAWAR-SFU	PUBLIC NOTICE Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by nadar khan with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased parvez citizen number 1730110740289 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs: 1. gul nakh(daughter) 2. haider khan(son) 3. hina parvez(daughter) 4. saba gul(daughter) 5. mah guldauhter) 6. safia ali(spouse) 7. nadar khan(son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA RHO PESHAWAR-SFU
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PUBLIC NOTICE Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by muhammad shahab with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased mirak shah citizen number 1730188694485 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs: 1. muhammad shahab(son) 2. hamada ban(spouse) 3. shahzad rehman(son) 4. dilbar jan(spouse) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA HANGU-SFU	PUBLIC NOTICE Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by abdulwahid with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased ali(son) citizen number 173011448381 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs: 1. raheela islam(daughter) 2. naabeela bibi(daughter) 3. faiz ulgari- khar(son) 4. kanait islam(daughter) 5. abdulah(son) 6. Ghazala islam(daughter) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA RING ROAD-DSFU	PUBLIC NOTICE Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by abdulwahid with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased muhammad ali citizen number 173011448381 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs: 1. raheela islam(daughter) 2. naabeela bibi(daughter) 3. faiz ulgari- khar(son) 4. kanait islam(daughter) 5. abdulah(son) 6. Ghazala islam(daughter) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA RING ROAD-DSFU
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PUBLIC NOTICE Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by tariq with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased daud citizen number 1350306512341 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs: 1. meher un nisa(spouse) 2. Waqas Ahmed(son) 3. sher muhammad(son) 4. samina bibi(daughter) 6. tariq(son) 7. sohai ahmed(son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MANSEHRA-SFU	PUBLIC NOTICE Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by qadir ali with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased nawaz ali citizen number 4250156568345 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs: 1. karrar haider(son) 3. nadir ali(son) 4. ghayoor abbas(son) 5. rozina farhat(daughter) 6. maqsood ali(son) 7. farhat sultan(spouse) 8. zafar ali(son) 9. irshad hussain(son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA HANGU-SFU
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Mahira pens heartfelt apology to Karachi

ISLAMABAD: The Love Guru star took to her Instagram account on Friday, October 3, to pen a lengthy yet heartfelt apology for not taking care of the city of lights. “Sometimes I marvel at my city. I feel blessed that my work takes me to places I probably would have never gone to. Streets and little bastis I would have never seen. We live in such a tiny bubble,” she began. Mahira went on to write, “Worries – we all have. but I’ve seen people and places which have been suffering forever. Homes that don’t have electricity for hours at end. barely anything to eat on a daily basis, dirt that has been collected for weeks. The disparity of rich and poor is so massive in this city.” “I saw all of this.. but what I also saw were kids laughing, a child or two coming back from school, a mother making fresh parathas for the son that goes out to making a living. I saw a street where a mandir, church and a masjid literally shared a wall. I saw smiles which had sadness, yet hope. Within the struggle- Life,” she added. The Raees actor accompanied her note with carousal of images capturing the bustling yet impoverished streets of Karachi, beginning with a photo of Burns Road. “Karachi.. I love you. I’m sorry we haven’t been able to look after you, the way you look after us All. X,” Mahira Khan added.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi inquires after health of the injured police personnel of bomb blast during his visit to Lady Reading Hospital on Friday. — PHOTO: PID

Kundi lauds Ombudsman for restoring public trust

Federal Ombudsman’s Regional Head briefs KP Governor on performance report

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR: Federal Ombudsman’s Regional Head and former senior bureaucrat Muhammad Mushatq Jadoon called on Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi at Governor House on Friday and presented the performance report of the Regional Office.

During the meeting, Jadoon informed the Governor that under the leadership of Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi, the Federal Ombudsman’s institution resolved 226,000 complaints in 2024, including cases related to women, children’s rights, widows’ pensions, and overseas Pakistanis. He added that 93 percent of these complaints were implemented.

This year, around 200,000 complaints have already been heard, with 88 percent resolved so far. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa alone, 21,000 complaints

Governor visits LRH to inquire after injured police personnel

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Friday visited Lady Reading Hospital (LRH) Peshawar to inquire about the police personnel injured in the Ghari Qamarudin bomb blast. During the visit, the governor met each injured officer individually, inquired about their health, and expressed his best wishes for their early recovery. He also sought details from the hospital administration regarding the medical treatment and facilities being provided to the injured. Governor Kundi paid tribute to the police official martyred in the blast and extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, praying for patience and strength for the relatives of the martyr.

have been addressed this year compared to 20,000 last year, reflecting growing public confidence in the institution.

Jadoon highlighted that additional measures are being taken to improve service delivery, including inspections of federal institutions and the facility to lodge complaints via WhatsApp.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi praised the role of the Federal Ombudsman, saying that the institution plays a vital role in ensuring quick and transparent solutions to public grievances.

He said the Regional Office’s performance shows that people now have access to an effective forum for redressal of their issues.

The Governor lauded the Ombudsman’s services for restoring public trust and promoting good governance, expressing hope that the Regional Office would continue its efforts to address citizens’ complaints promptly.

Pakistan shows mirror to India over grave human rights violations in IIOJK

AJK residents enjoying civil and political rights, including right to peaceful protest: MoFA

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has called out India over its continuous atrocities and the state-sponsored terrorism against Kashmiris in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

In a statement issued on Friday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) stated that people in IIOJK were subject to widespread violations, in stark contrast to the civil and political rights being enjoyed by those in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK).

People in AJK continue to actively participate in shaping their democratic future, the MoFA said, adding that Pakistan was committed to upholding their dig-

nity, rights, including the right to peaceful assembly and protest.

“This commitment reflects not only our constitutional responsibility but also our enduring moral obligation to the people of Jammu and Kashmir,” the Foreign Ministry added. Pakistan urged India to fulfil its obligations under international law and the United Nations (UN) Charter about IIOJK, instead of making baseless accusations about AJK.

“The use of brute force, denial of fundamental freedoms, and systematic and grave human rights violations have become the hallmark of India’s state-sponsored terrorism against the innocent Kashmiri people to suppress their just struggle,” MoFA stated.

Bangladeshi militant linked to TTP killed in Karak

About a month and a half ago, Bangladeshi police informed Faisal’s family that he was not in Dubai but had instead joined militant ranks in Pakistan

UMER FAROOQ

PESHAWAR: A Bangladeshi militant affiliated with the banned Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has been killed in Darsha Khel area of Karak district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. According to Bangladeshi media reports, the deceased has been identified as Faisal Hussain Marul, also known as Saad.

Faisal Hussain reportedly belonged to Dattokhali village in Madaripur district of Bangladesh. Local reports suggest he ran a small shop in his village, selling perfumes and religious items. To his family, he claimed he was running a business in Dubai. However, it later emerged that he had entered Pakistan through Afghanistan and joined the TTP.

About a month and a half ago, Bangladeshi police informed Faisal’s family that he was not in Dubai but had instead joined militant ranks in Pakistan. The news came as a shock to his

relatives. Faisal’s cousin, Tauseef, told the media:

“Faisal always told us he was doing business in Dubai and stayed in touch from there. We were stunned when we learned through the media that he had been killed in Pakistan. The entire family is devastated, and we are trying to contact Pakistani authorities for the repatriation of his body.”

According to a report from Bangladesh’s State Department, there are currently eight Bangladeshi nationals fighting within TTP ranks. Two of them had already been killed in earlier operations — one in Shawal, North Waziristan, and another in Mianwali. Faisal is the third casualty, while the whereabouts and details of the remaining five are still unclear.

Pakistani authorities have not officially confirmed the Karak incident. However, several pro-TTP social media accounts shared Faisal’s photos and messages calling him a “martyr.”

Analysts say the involvement of a Bangladeshi citizen with



TTP is a rare development. Peshawar-based journalist Jawad Yousafzai noted: “Afghan fighters joining TTP is not unusual, but highlighting a Bangladeshi recruit is part of the group’s deliberate strategy. They want to project themselves not just as a Pakistan-focused outfit but as part of a broader international militant network. By doing so, they aim to gain recognition and support beyond the region, aligning themselves with organizations like al-Qaeda and ISIS.”

Background of TTP

The Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan was formed in 2007. Initially, its fighters targeted state institutions in North and South Waziristan and other tribal districts. Later, the group expanded its operations to various Pakistani cities, carrying out suicide bombings and attacks.

Pakistani officials state that the group’s current leadership is based in Afghanistan, continuing its activities along the border areas. Analysts suggest that the killing of Faisal Hussain indicates the group’s attempts to move beyond its local base and expand its ranks internationally.

Spot ON

Smog: Outdoor, sports activities suspended in schools

LAHORE: In view of the smog in Punjab, the School Education Department has taken emergency measures to protect students.

SED official sources told APP that instructions have been issued to suspend outdoor activities and sports in schools during smog days, and it has been decided to launch an awareness campaign for teachers, parents and students to protect them from smog. The Education Department has directed school heads to keep classrooms clean and ventilate, a complete ban on burning garbage in schools, and arrangements for waste disposal have been made mandatory.

Journalist protest attack on NPC

MULTAN: The Multan Union of Journalists (MUJ) on Thursday staged a protest demonstration in front of Multan Press Club to condemn the recent attack on National Press Club (NPC) in Islamabad. Representatives of various media bodies and press clubs participated in the protest, expressing solidarity with their colleagues in the capital. The demonstration was led by MUJ President Malik Shahadat Hussain and General Secretary Mazhar Khan. Among the participants were PFUJ Assistant Secretary Jamshed Rizwani, Khalid Chaudhry, Mehr Imran, Anjum Pitafi, Syed Mazen Yousaf, Jan Sher Khan, Salman Qureshi, Hafeezullah Bhangui, Rafiqat Anjum, and others.

Sanauallah Zehri pays tribute to security forces for successful operation in Zehri

OUR CORRESPONDENT

QUETTA: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Central leader and former Chief Minister Balochistan, Chief of Jhalawan Nawab Sanauallah Khan Zehri on Friday paid tribute to the security forces for their successful operation in Zehri. He said that the forces have fulfilled their national duty by clearing the area of terrorists saying that the patriotic citizens who have been living in Zehri for a long time have finally breathed a sigh of relief.

Hina Parvez assures justice for acid attack victim

LAHORE: Punjab Women Protection Authority (PWPA) Chairperson Hina Parvez Butt visited the residence of a woman who sustained serious injuries in an acid attack allegedly carried out by her husband in Lahore’s Nishtar Colony, expressing solidarity and assuring full support from the provincial government. Speaking to the media, Hina Parvez said that such heinous acts of violence against women would not be tolerated under any circumstances. She assured that the accused would be brought to justice and given the strictest possible punishment to deter such crimes in society.

Wildlife foil bid to smuggle 20 black scorpions

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ABBOTTABAD: Abbottabad Wildlife Division staff Friday foiled an attempt to smuggle 20 black scorpions and arrested four suspects.

According to the spokesperson of the Wildlife Department, during a search operation at the Forest Check Post in Sillhad, 20 black scorpions were recovered from the suspects’ possession, and they were taken into custody.

A case has been registered against the accused under the relevant sections of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Wildlife and Biodiversity Act 2015.

The Conservator Wildlife, Hazara Circle, praised the timely efforts of the staff to



curb this illegal activity. He stressed that such actions not only help prevent the unlawful trade of wildlife but also reflect the department’s commitment to preserving biodiversity and safeguarding natural resources for future generations.